

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Meeting Log
Play Yard Zipper Access Task Group

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.18 Task Group Meeting on Play Yard Zipper Access

LOCATION: Teleconference

DATE: September 13, 2022, 1:00pm, ET

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Frederick deGrano (ESMC)

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Frederick deGrano (ESMC), Stephen Harsanyi (ESHF), Carlos Torres (ESMC), Suad Wanna-Nakamura (HSPP)

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Anna Carter, Task Group Lead. Contact ASTM for the attendee list.

MEETING SUMMARY:

Ms. Carter started the meeting by presenting the revised draft standard language for fastening mechanisms for play yard structural soft goods. The task group intends to address through the proposed requirements the risk of head entrapment associated with zippers or other fastening mechanisms being accessed by children from within the play yard or otherwise becoming partially undone and expanding an opening large enough for head entrapment.

The subcommittee chair presented her concern that the draft requirements were initially developed specifically for zippers, but the task group eventually expanded the scope to apply to all fasteners and would also include snaps, buttons, clips, etc. Because other fastening mechanisms significantly differ from zippers, the current draft requirements may become unnecessarily burdensome for consumers if applied to all fasteners. For example, the draft requires single action mechanisms to have at a minimum 10 lbf. to release, and if applied to multiple snaps, it would be significantly onerous for the consumer to remove the soft goods of their product. After discussion, the task group agreed that because the incident that initially led to the creation of the task group involved a zipper, the scope can be reduced to apply to only zippers. The subcommittee will continue to monitor incidents and if other fastening mechanisms become an issue, additional requirements will be developed to address those hazards.

The task group then discussed whether the definition for structural soft goods should specifically apply only to play yards since non-full-size cribs do not have structural soft goods. Because new products are emerging in the market that have hybrid rigid and mesh sides, the task group agreed that prior to balloting these requirements, the task group lead will interface with the task group that was formed to address these new products to ensure that the definition aligns with their direction.

Lastly, the task group discussed how the draft requirements account for zippers that are partially undone. CPSC staff stated their concern that the draft requirements are ineffective if a zipper is inadvertently left partially undone by the consumer and would allow a child to manipulate the zipper pull to create a hazardous opening. CPSC staff asked the task group to consider whether it would be appropriate to add to the warning label a warning to ensure that the zipper is completely closed and locked prior to use with a child. This discussion will continue in the next meeting.

Next Steps:

The task group agreed to present the current draft requirements to the greater F15 subcommittee during the next meeting scheduled on October 19, 2022 for further feedback.